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4 August

My dear Mr. Rice:

We have reviewed your restricted article Strategic Intelligence and the Publication of Statistics and find it an admirable statement of the problems encountered in weighing the public need for free access to government-compiled statistics against the need for restricting the circulation of such data in the interest of the national security. I agree with the principle apparently underlying your intention to publish this article that every effort must be made to give the public access to information bearing on matters of public policy. In fact, this Agency makes available to publishers, universities and private scholars a great deal of valuable, although unclassified, information relating to world affairs that, without the existence of the agency, would never find its way into the possession of the public.

In the case of your article, however, I feel that its publication in its present form and at this time would be prejudicial to the national security. I am extremely anxious that the U.S. Government do nothing to alert potential enemies to the importance of certain types of economic data. This your article might do. Not only might it provoke tightened security on their part but it might also indicate the size, scope, and emphasis of our own intelligence effort. While I am sure that our potential enemies assume our interest in their economies, I also believe that the specificity of your article, its frankness about the role of intelligence in U.S.

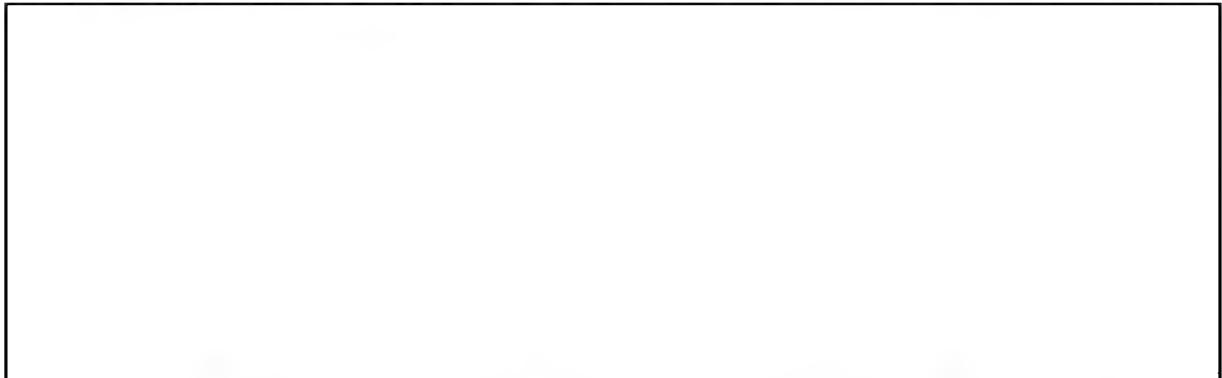
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policy formulation, and its obvious authenticity, would tell them a great deal about the nature and status of the intelligence effort that NSCID #11 charges me to protect from their knowledge.

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In addition to my general objection to the publication of the article, I am afraid that your fair statement of the problem has led you to include matters of an operational nature that had best be withheld. For example, I believe that it would be unwise to reveal the status of U.S. negotiations with other countries on these matters; or to publish the criteria for withholding data; or reveal indirectly the specific items concerning which information is to be withheld. As a minor matter, we do not normally reveal CIA participation in inter-departmental committees.

I am reluctant to take this stand, since I am well aware of the harmful effects of the denial of information to our own public for an extended period, but I feel that the world situation leaves me no alternative at this time.

Sincerely yours,

W. B. S.

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